

ACCESS TO JUSTICE ACTIVITY

QUARTERLY TECHNICAL REPORT October 1 – December 30, 2015

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QUARTERLY TECHNICAL REPORT (October 1 – December 30, 2015)

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LIST OF ACRONYMS

ADR Alternative Dispute Resolution

AGO Attorney General's Office (Fiscalía General of la Nación)

AJA Access to Justice Activity (or the "Project")

APS Annual Program Statement

CECAR Corporación Universitaria del Caribe

CEJ Corporation for Excellence in Justice (Corporación Excelencia en la Justicia)

CIJ Attorney General's Office University of Knowledge and Innovation for

Justice (Universidad Conocimiento e Innovación para la Justicia de la Fiscalía

General de la Nación)

CISPA Inter-Institutional Commission for the Criminal Accusatory System

(Comisión Interinstitucional of Seguimiento al Criminal Accusatory System)

CNMH National Center for Historical Memory (Centro Nacional de Memoria

Histórica)

CPC Criminal Procedure Code

CSDI Colombia Strategic Development Initiative

CSJ Superior Judicial Council (Consejo Superior de la Judicatura)

DADR Alternative Dispute Resolution Directorate of the Ministry of Justice and

Law (Dirección de Mecanismos Alternativos de Solución de Conflictos)

DNP Department of National Planning

DPS Department of Social Prosperity (Departamento de Prosperidad Social)

EC Equity Conciliator

ESAP Escuela Superior de Administración Pública

FARC Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia (Fuerzas Armadas Revolucionarias

of Colombia)

FIP Fundación Ideas para la Paz

GBV Gender-Based Violence

IOM International Organization for Migration

JAC Community Action Board

JH Justice House

LJC Local Justice Committees

LJS Local Justice System

LR Land Restitution

LRDP Land and Rural Development Program

MICE Methodology to Implement Community Conciliation

MJL Ministry of Justice and Law (Ministerio of la Justicia and del Derecho)

NGC National Gender Commission of the Judicial Branch (Comisión Nacional of

Género of la Rama Judicial)

NGO Non-Governmental Organization

NPJH National Program for Justice Houses

NUSCJ National University School for Community Justice

OACP Office of the High Commissioner for Peace

SNARIV National System for Attention and Comprehensive Reparation for Victims

SP Strategic Partner

SPA Criminal Accusatory System (Criminal Accusatory System)

SV Sexual Violence

UACT Special Administrative Unit for Territorial Consolidation (*Unidad*

Administrativa Especial para la Consolidación Territorial)

UARIV National Unit for the Comprehensive Assistance and Reparation of

Victims (Unidad para la Atención and Reparación Integral a las Víctimas)

URT Land Restitution Unit

USAID United States Agency for International Development

VLC Virtual Legal Clinic

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The first quarter of FY 2016 ended on an enthusiastic and positive note with an agreement signed between the FARC and the Government of Colombia (GOC) on December 15 regarding justice and treatment for victims and the fact that Colombia seems to be on its way to called the "post-conflict era," with the expectation that a peace agreement will be signed on March 23, 2016. In some territories of the country, the FARC leadership is already mobilizing with a certain degree of freedom and the consent of the GOC in order to enlist its followers in the peace process. The GOC is creating enlistment teams in order to implement concrete proposals for laying the foundations for a final and lasting peace.

In December, the Ministry of Post-Conflict publicly shared the areas in which its rapid response will be focused, including 18 priority points of intervention. With regard to justice issues, there are five points that overlap with the Access to Justice Activity's (AJA) efforts in the territories, namely: a) mobile Justice House campaigns, peaceful coexistence and other formal and alternative justice services; b) community training (1,000 Community Action Boards) on equity conciliation; c) assistance to rural communities in the formalization and regularization of property; d) creation and strengthening of the Local Justice Committees in 50 municipalities; and e) strengthening of the gender approach by the Rural Police in order to better address cases of domestic violence and sexual violence. The AJA is evaluating existing mechanisms and tools in order to support these efforts in the event that USAID considers it advisable and appropriate.

Regarding AJA's main counterparts, it is worth mentioning that the closing of the Attorney General's Office University of Knowledge and Innovation for Justice (CIJ) directly affects the implementation of some activities included in the approved work plan. Furthermore, on December 30, the Central Government issued a decree which merged the Special Administrative Unit for Territorial Consolidation (UACT) with the Department of Social Prosperity (DPS). The UACT national director and the territorial directors were dismissed. While some personnel from the UACT remain, including those who have direct coordination with AJA activities, the AJA is analyzing how these changes may affect the implementation.

In the midst of a changing Colombia and shifting situation with key counterparts, the AJA made significant progress during the first quarter of FY 2016. In Component One, the AJA presented the Ministry of Justice and Law with the Justice House Sustainability Index, which was well-received by the participants. Also in Component One, the Ministry of Justice and Law accepted the proposal made by Evensen Dodge International for a public-private alliance that includes the building and maintaining of 50 JHs, 80% of which will be in post-conflict municipalities. Should this process continue to go smoothly in the next reporting period, the AJA will plan to provide short-term

consultants to assist with specific tasks. In Component Two, the AJA closed an Annual Program Statement (APS) for awarding grants to women's and other organizations that provide legal assistance to victims of gender-based violence. The AJA expects that six grant agreements will be signed by the end of February 2016. The AJA also continued to offer the Local Justice Committees (LJCs) interdisciplinary workshops on sexual violence. The AJA analyzed the findings from these workshops with respect to lessons learned, best practices and barriers of access to justice for victims of sexual violence. Another highlight from the work under Component Two this quarter includes the National Gender Roundtable in Envigado, Antioquia hosted by the National Gender Commission. For this event, the AJA supported the participation of representatives of national and international women's organizations and the presence of one of the speakers.

In Component Three, the AJA conducted a study tour with outstanding land restitution judges to exchange knowledge with counterparts in the United States in November. The AJA also continued making progress in the implementation of the replica of the management model, and it supported the Fourteenth National Conference of the Land Restitution Jurisdiction in Cúcuta on November 25, 2015. At that event, judges engaged in in-depth discussions on the mechanisms for incorporating the guides and protocols that have been developed by the judicial branch.

Regarding the sustainability of the efforts to strengthen local justice systems, the major achievement reported in this period was the issuance of 16 municipal agreements to legalize the same number of LJCs. At a regional level, the AJA entered into agreements with other USAID operators, such as Colombia Responde and the Land and Rural Development Program, in order to enhance local joint efforts and increase sustainability. In preparation for a post-conflict period, the AJA began planning for Regional Forums on Territorial Justice, Rurality and the Post-Conflict Era, and will conduct preparatory workshops with LJCs.

1.0 POLICY ISSUES

I.I BROAD CONSULTATION WITH STAKEHOLDERS

In addition to the information included in the subsection on sustainability in Section 2 of this report, the AJA broadened its partnerships during the quarter, particularly with regard to the preparation and implementation of regional forums on territorial justice, rurality and the post-conflict period, with actors such as the UNDP, *Pastoral Social*, *Espacio Regional de Construcción de Paz Territorial* (an umbrella group of 54 civil society organizations in Montes de María) and *Red de Desarrollo y Paz de Montes de María*. These forums further served to strengthen the AJA's relationship with the Governor's Office of Meta, *Fundación Oleoductos de Colombia* and *Fundación Mineros* in Bajo Cauca.

1.2 COORDINATION WITH OTHER DONORS, USAID PROJECTS AND USG AGENCIES

Information about this is included in the subsection on sustainability in Section 2 of this report, given that this is the framework in which the interests of the different USAID implementers have converged.

2.0 REGIONAL ASPECTS

2.1 SUMMARY OF ACTIVITIES AND ACHIEVEMENTS

Coordination with strategic partners and other allies within the territory

During the quarter, the AJA continued to monitor the performance of the subcontracts with Strategic Partners (SP). Of special note are two activities developed with Santo Tomás University: a roundtable on the 10 years of implementation of the Criminal Accusatory System (SPA) and a roundtable with gubernatorial candidates in Meta. Additionally, the University of Antioquia implemented four psychosocial campaigns in Cáceres, El Bagre, Caucasia and Zaragoza. The AJA identified some difficulties in the implementation of the subcontract with the University of the Sinú (internal University bureaucratic issues), which is in the process of being modified.

Sustainability

During this quarter, activities in the regions were aimed at enhancing the Project's sustainability, taking advantage of the transition between incoming and outgoing municipal administrations. The four prioritized local public policy areas discussed below are: i) working with outgoing officials to formalize (through municipal decrees) at least 50% of the Local Justice Committees (LJCs) by December 31; ii) meetings with newly



elected mayors and governors to promote the inclusion of programs and budget lines in their development plans to support different processes the AJA is leading in each region; iii) establishing and strengthening partnerships with other USAID operators in the territories; and iv) promoting regional forums on local justice, rurality and the post-conflict period.

Local Justice Committees (LJC)

LJC formalization (decrees/agreements)

The decrees issued by municipal mayors' offices are administrative acts that regulate aspects of local development. Their effective terms exceed the administrative periods in which they are signed, and thus must be complied with by the mayors who will take office on January 1, 2016. As a result of the work performed by the LJCs during the quarter, 16 municipal decrees were issued, corresponding to 55% of all operating LJCs as follows:

Region	Municipality	Decree
Bajo Cauca	Anorí	077 of October 29, 2015
	Briceño	023 of March 21, 2014
	Cáceres	182 of October 26, 2015
	El Bagre	119 of October 24, 2014
	Nechí	059 of November 10, 2015
	Tarazá	105 of October 20, 2015
	Valdivia	091-1 of October 1, 2015
Sur de Tolima	Ataco	109 of November 19, 2015
	Rioblanco	046 of December 2, 2015
	Chaparral	0108 of December 18, 2015
Montes de María	San Onofre	501 of November 27, 2015

Region	Municipality	Decree		
	El Carmen de Bolívar	0172 of December 16, 2015		
Sur de Córdoba	Montelíbano	1189 of December 15, 2015		
	Puerto Libertador	236 of December 14, 2015		
	San José de Uré	319 of December 15, 2015		
Tumaco	Tumaco	1005 of October 13, 2015		

Decrees were issued in most of the municipalities in the Bajo Cauca, Sur de Córdoba and Sur del Tolima regions (7/10, 3/4 and 3/4 respectively). Of particular note is the case of Tumaco, where there is considerable administrative unrest due to the political tension between the outgoing and incoming mayors. Two decrees were issued in Montes de María.

No progress was made in the La Macarena region during this quarter because the Local Justice Roundtables autonomously decided that they should be formalized through agreements issued by the municipal councils that will take office in January. In San Jacinto and Ovejas, Montes de María and Planadas, Sur de Tolima, it was decided that it would be appropriate to proceed with the formalization process with the new mayors or councils in January.

Inclusion of LJCs and local justice policies in municipal development plans and budgets (2015-2016)

The strategy for influencing local policy was implemented in three phases. The first ended in October before the elections, with the presentation of 27 forums and roundtables with most of the mayoral and gubernatorial candidates, in regional partnerships with an average of 10 institutional, private and international cooperation actors. The central purpose of these events was to provide information and raise awareness about the access to justice programs being developed in each region, and the importance of making them sustainable in the new municipal agendas.

The second phase began on October 28 following the elections, and it was implemented in all of the regions (See Annex A). The AJA met with the newly elected officials, most of whom stated their interest in having local policy include justice-related issues, with an emphasis on improving access to justice in rural areas; coordination between different justice systems, including indigenous justice systems; strengthening existing Justice Houses (JH); and supporting the sustainability of the LJCs. For the third phase of the strategy, there is an agreement under which the Project will provide technical assistance for the inclusion of local justice policies at a programmatic level and in budgets of development plans. At a meeting on December 17 with regional agencies and justice professionals of the UACT, an agreement was reached to strengthen joint work for this purpose under the agreement with the Escuela Superior de Admnistración Pública (ESAP).

It should be noted that it was not possible for the mayor's offices to issue Budget Availability Certificates for the execution of LJC projects registered in the municipal project banks, because the Law of Guarantees was in effect from April 28 to October 28, 2015. However, in the meetings held

with the mayors-elect, most of them made commitments to ensure the inclusion of these projects in their 2016 budgets. The AJA is reviewing the municipal agreements issued by the councils in relation to the 2016 budgets in order to verify the inclusion of these projects.

Partnerships with other USAID operators

AJA's partnerships have focused on influencing the policies of the new office holders, joint actions through the LJCs in land formalization and restitution processes, and the incorporation of ethnic justice in the Local Justice Systems (LJSs) – in Bajo Cauca and Sur de Córdoba with *Colombia Responde* and implementer MSI; in Sur de Tolima with *Colombia Responde*, MSI and Tetra Tech; and in Tumaco with *Colombia Responde* – through local forums on local justice, territory and the post-conflict period.

With respect to land formalization and restitution in Bajo Cauca, an agreement was reached with *Colombia Responde* to begin awareness-raising activities with the LJCs of Valdivia, Briceño and Anorí in January, through a team of consultants and joint coordination of thematic legal brigades. In Montes de María, the AJA agreed with the Land and Rural Development Program (LRDP) to provide technical support in responding to land formalization requests made in legal brigades in the villages of Macayepo in Carmen de Bolívar and El Palmar in Ovejas. The LRDP provides all of the information delivered by the legal clinic of *Corporación Universitaria del Caribe* (CECAR) that participates in these brigades.

In Sur de Tolima, the AJA entered into an agreement with the LRDP and *Colombia Responde* to support the land formalization processes in Chaparral, where 440 properties are being classified for legalization and formalization. As a result of this agreement, a thematic legal brigade was carried out on December 3 in the village of Calarma, Risalda, with the assistance from Universidad Cooperativa de Colombia's legal clinic, at which 244 people received help with property titles, title histories, property formalization, and adverse possession processes, among other matters. The University's legal clinic helped 11 families with their land legalization processes through a conciliation that enabled them to formalize their common law marriages, a first step in obtaining land tenure.

Under the partnership with *Colombia Responde* in Bajo Cauca, joint actions with ethnic communities and their relationships with the LJCs were developed. Two workshops were held to provide training to 68 indigenous women leaders in Caucasia and Cáceres, and a forum was held in Zaragoza on the role of Afro-Colombian women in justice and post-conflict scenarios.

Regional forums on territorial justice, rurality and the post-conflict period

The AJA developed a strategy with the LJCs to enhance the visibility of the issue of rurality and justice in local government agendas and post-conflict agreements, given that the lack of access in rural areas to the state justice system was the main barrier identified in the 29 municipalities associated with the armed conflict. The *Fundación Ideas para la Paz* (FIP), in coordination with Component 3, developed a methodology that has guided work in six regions, which includes the development of strategic

territorial partnerships for the preparation and development of forums, the subsequent monitoring of agreements and expanded roundtables of the LJCs, and the holding of meetings or focus groups in the rural population centers of each municipality. The main partners for the promotion of the forums have already been identified, and the dates of the forums have been set (see **Annex B**). The expanded meetings of the LJCs and focus groups, and the meetings in the rural centers in preparation of the forums, are currently being scheduled. One of the central questions to be discussed in these meetings is how the justice system should function in the territories in a post-conflict context.

In La Macarena, the AJA established a partnership with the Governor's Office of Meta for co-funding the regional forum on Challenges of the Justice System in the Post-Conflict Era, for which the UNDP also played a role. This forum, which was held on November 27 in Villavicencio, was attended by justice operators and other delegates from the 29 municipalities, national and regional officials of the UNDP and the Governor's Office, and approximately 180 citizens. The Director of Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR) Mechanisms of the Ministry of Justice and Law (MJL), the Coordinator of the UNDP, and a representative of the Office of the High Commissioner for Peace gave presentations. The FIP discussed public policies aimed at overcoming barriers to access to justice. The participation of the MJL led to a meeting held during the beginning of December 2015 to define sites for the LJCs' regional justice forums, with the consultations that the Ministry will provide for the 2017-2027 tenyear justice plan.

Creation and strengthening of the Regional Justice Committees

Although no progress was made in the creation of Regional Justice Committees in the five pending regions, the Sur de Córdoba Committee received recognition in the workshop on interjurisdictional coordination held in Montería for the signing and application of an interjurisdictional protocol with the Zenú and Embera peoples. This protocol should be used as a model for the national work with other indigenous peoples.

Rurality Strategy

During the quarter, the LJCs made progress in developing a rurality strategy based on different activities in the rural areas. The main points of the strategy are: i) linking the Community Action Boards (JACs) to the LJCs; ii) recognizing and prioritizing the intervention in rural population centers; iii) direct access through rural brigades with assistance from legal clinics; iv) virtual legal clinics and their connection to digital kiosks; and v) recognition of traditional justice systems and interjurisdictional coordination protocols. The advances made this quarter are shown in **Annex C**.

Legal Brigades

The LJCs carried out eleven mobile justice brigades¹ during the quarter, attended by 904 users (see **Annex D**). Difficulties were encountered in registering user information during the brigades in La Macarena due to FARC presence in the towns in which they were carried out. The communities were afraid to provide information because the implementation of the state justice system is just in the trust-building phase. However, a wide acceptance of the brigades by the community has been demonstrated. It is the only region in which judges and prosecutors have attended all of the campaigns, overcoming, as they themselves state, the fear of traveling to the rural areas.

Virtual Legal Clinics

The regional teams progressed with the implementation of virtual legal clinics in four regions (Sur de Córdoba, Montes de María, Sur de Tolima and La Macarena), and assisted in providing training to law students and system administrators and in launching events with the participation of SPs. Unfortunately, computer equipment used by the virtual legal clinic in Montes de María (San Jacinto) was stolen during the first week of December. The AJA is assessing the impact of this theft and the remedial measures to be taken.

Map of Actors (updating and strengthening)

During the quarter, the AJA started the process to update the map of actors in the 29 municipalities, taking into account the proposal developed for Bajo Cauca for identifying changes in the structure of the justice system, showing the weaknesses that require attention, particularly in the LJCs (see Annexes E and F). In addition, the AJA designed a map of the presence of the National Police and its relationship with the population in each municipality in Bajo Cauca, showing differences in urban and rural areas (see Annex G). These models will be used to present information about the other regions next quarter. Given the importance of ethnic issues for the LJCs, information about the presence of Afro-Colombian and indigenous communities in the municipalities and their relationship with the LJCs was expanded (see Annexes H, I and J).

Ethnic Justice

The AJA facilitated preparatory discussions to develop coordination protocols between the formal justice and ethnic justice systems in three municipalities in La Macarena. Three workshops were conducted in Uribe, Mesetas and Macarena with the Embera, Nasa and Nisak (Uribe), Nasa (Mesetas) and Pijaos, Tucanos, Piratapuyos, Nasa, Embera Chamí and Wuananos (Macarena) indigenous peoples. In Uribe, initial coordination agreements were established with the indigenous authorities

¹ The eleven mobile justice brigades are comprised of three brigades by law school clinics and eight LCJ brigades.

and the municipal judge; in Mesetas, the MJL's relationship with the indigenous authorities was defined; and in La Macarena, the phase for developing the interjurisdictional protocol was initiated. In Sur de Córdoba, the AJA implemented the agreement established in the Regional Justice Committee by holding a meeting to exchange experiences related to the protocols established with the Sinú and Embera Katío peoples, and a workshop in the Sinú Reservation of San Andrés de Sotavento with the participation of judges and prosecutors. In Ataco, Sur de Tolima, the LJC signed an interjurisdictional coordination protocol, and ratified the inclusion of the Pijao people and an Afro-Colombian community that was recognized in the municipality.

In Tumaco, assistance was provided for the implementation of RECOMPAS's grant. The main advances included historical memory reconstruction and progress towards the systematization of ancestral practices related to the administration of justice; the holding of community awareness-raising events at which recognized leaders who have participated in dispute resolution processes were identified for membership on Ancestral Justice Committees; and the development of the institutional relations protocol.

<u>Gender</u>

All of the regional teams supported the activities with territorial organizations for the presentation of proposals in the framework of the APS. Despite several problems encountered in the awareness-raising and assistance process, different organizations in the six regions sent proposals for providing legal assistance and advice in cases involving gender-based violence (GBV). Additionally, in Bajo Cauca, Montes de Maria, Sur de Cordoba and Sur de Tolima, regional teams supported events organized as part of the commemoration of the International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women.

3.0 COMPONENT ACTIVITIES

3.1 COMPONENT ONE – JUSTICE HOUSES AND ADR

Promote greater access to justice at the community level by establishing and strengthening JHs

Completion of the public-private alliance proposal process

The MJL has accepted the proposal made by Evensen Dodge International for a public-private alliance and joint work will begin early in 2016. The proposal includes the building and maintaining of 50 JHs,

80% of which will be in post-conflict municipalities. The AJA will provide short-term consultants to assist with specific tasks.

<u>Design and support innovative and strategic interventions by JHs for the post-conflict</u> <u>period and ongoing peace geography efforts</u>

AJA has continued its activities in post-conflict preparations with the National Center for Historical Memory (CNMH) and the Post-Conflict Ministry and has strengthened its interactions with the Office of the High Commissioner for Peace (OACP). The Alternative Dispute Resolution Directorate of the Ministry of Justice and Law (DADR) in the MJL has also begun to focus on post-conflict developments which will be included in the first 10 Year Justice Plan (for 2017-2027).

In this regard, AJA and the CNMH visited the Ataco Trees for Memory Project from November 11-12 to obtain information about this initiative and explore the options for ensuring on-going historical memory activities there. The Trees' project was created as a final expression of the Department of Social Prosperity's (DPS) program, "Families on their Land". In 2013, with land donated by the municipal mayor's office, DPS organized a group of 105 displaced families who had returned to their farmlands, to plant trees in memory of victims of the armed conflict or of people they wished to remember. Interviews with some of these family members indicate the motive for the tree planning exercise was not entirely clear to the participants and today the site has little significance for them. In fact, the site is currently quite dilapidated and the signs beside the trees once bearing the names of the people to be remembered there are now completely blank. AJA and CNMH spoke with the *Personera* of Ataco and she is promoting an Association of Victims of the Armed Conflict that might well be interested in promoting a new historical memory effort there.

As the play-therapy group activities with the children, families, municipal authorities and communities in Rioblanco and Chaparral continue, AJA has paid particular attention to two aspects aimed at providing key tools for such projects with child victims. On the one hand a child monitoring system tracking four principal aspects of a child's well-being: i) access to legal rights to health and education services and personal identity papers; ii) relationships with others—mainly with the other children- and their families; iii) adequate expression and management of personal emotions; and iv) conduct conducive to peaceful coexistence with others. Results to date highlight cases of on-going risk and difficulty in both municipalities. The *Comisarías de Familia* in the JHs offer the most immediate response but suitable inter- institutional attention has been lacking. AJA's concern is the costs that the interinstitutional neglect will have on efforts to ensure these children can be a part of the new generation to promote peace.

Secondly, AJA worked with the *Corporación Niñez y Juego* (previously known as *Corporación Día de la Niñez*) to design an innovative pedagogical program for the play-therapy groups, incorporating specific actions to assist child victims of the armed conflict and other forms of violence. This document includes a focus on recovering and giving new significance to the child's memories and life story,

fortifying resilience by improving self-esteem and building better interpersonal and family relations and developing skills for understanding their emotions which seeks to promote emotional recovery. The document now needs interinstitutional revision and input before it can be finalized as a product to be made available to other institutions such as the National Unit for the Comprehensive Assistance and Reparation of Victims (UARIV), the MJL and the Ministry of Foreign Relations that set up municipal casas lúdicas as part of the Programa Integral de Niños, Niñas y Adolescentes con Oportunidades.

The play-therapy group project's interinstitutional committee which has met previously will be convened again in 2016 to discuss the pedagogical program, the monitoring system and the sustainability proposal for Rioblanco and Chaparral. Both of these municipalities have assigned funds for the continuation of the play-group activities in their respective municipal budget projections for 2016.

Increasing coverage of JHs outside urban areas

No mobile JHs were supported during this quarter. While the electoral period in October meant several mobile JHs were cancelled, the final two months of the year serve as transition periods in the municipal administrations, and JH activities are consequently more difficult to implement. The AJA will begin an outreach strategy in 2016 and a joint exercise with the Post-Conflict Ministry is planned, as there is interest in designing a mobile justice services strategy that provides more justice-specific solutions.

Adoption of differentiated approaches in Justice Houses

AJA concluded the victimology and victims' assistance training in Sur de Tolima from December 1-2. AJA carried out the final session with 28 participants from the JHs in Chaparral, Rioblanco, Ataco and Ortega. Participants included the two children's play-therapy teams, the Chaparral Municipal *Enlace de Victimas*, a rural police inspector from Rioblanco, a public prosecutor from Ataco and members of the Women's Network in Chaparral. To ensure the techniques covered in the workshops will be incorporated into their case work, two cases, one involving victims of forcible displacement and terrorists attacks and a second case dealing with sexual abuse, from Sur de Tolima were examined using analytical criteria and tools that focus on the victims' situation.

One of the outcomes of the course is a preliminary measurement of the Post Traumatic Stress Disorder symptoms affecting participants who attend to victims. Of the 35 people who responded, only one participant showed she clearly suffers with such symptoms: this person is one of three that reported they have been victims of sexual abuse.

Twenty-six participants responded the questions posed to evaluate the training course: 21 were women and four identified themselves as members of the Pijao indigenous community. All replied that the topics covered would help them not only in their work with victims but also in their personal

development and their family life. They also suggested other areas they would recommend including in the course, such as the development of "genogramas" which are used to map out family trees and significant historical events. 61.5% reported they had not received training in the same or similar topics before.

The teaching group now needs to evaluate the course and decide on changes to be made before offering a similar program in Bajo Cauca, Antioqueño. This course in Bajo Cauca will form part of the interinstitutional plan to address sexual abuse in children and young women in El Bagre. This interinstitutional effort is led by the MJL and includes AJA, DPS, the Colombian National Welfare Institute, and Fundación Panamericana para el Desarrollo who executes the Foreign Affairs Ministry's Programa Integral de Niños, Niñas y Adolescentes con Oportunidades that built a Casa lúdica en El Bagre.

Given that there is only one JH in Montes de María, the course proposed for this region was modified to benefit a wider range of public institutions. AJA cooperated with the USAID-funded project Fortalecimiento Institucional para las Víctimas, operated by International Organization for Migration (IOM). AJA provided the teacher for the first topic of the Diplomado de Victimología, Justicia Transicional y Construcción de Paz. Classes were given in Montería on December 11 and 12, to 46 participants representing public entities that make up the National System for Attention and Comprehensive Reparation for Victims (SNARIV), PNUD, IOM, a representative from the LGBTI community, and the Coordinator and Sub-coordinator of the Monteria JH. The same classes were provided in Sincelejo by AJA on December 18-19 for 50 participants from public entities of the SNARIV, including municipal authorities from Sincelejo, Ovejas, San Onofre, representatives from the Sucre Governor's Office, Defensoría del Pueblo, Procudradurá Provincial, Public Prosecutor's Office, IOM, and two NGOs-Corporación Restaurar and Corporación Nueva Esperanza. The Coordinator from the San Onofre JH, a representative from CECAR and a member of the AJA Regional Office in Sincelejo were also present for the course.

<u>Legal Advice and Support for Peaceful Coexistence in the Free Housing Development in Chaparral</u>

The AJA consultant representing the Chaparral JH established growing rapport with the resident families and in particular with the newly constituted JAC in the Santa Helena housing development. The frequent visits to Santa Helena have produced interesting requests for legal support and advice, presenting unique cases for the Chaparral JH to address. The cases include dealing with the municipal authorities to ensure that 50 land and house titles were handed over to resident families. On December 14, 40 of these documents were given to the rightful owners. The consultant will follow-up on the progress of the 10 pending titles in the next quarter. The consultant will also facilitate coordination with at least 10 other entities to ensure the responses to these and other issues in the Santa Helena housing development are dealt with effectively.

Furthermore the MJL has recently prioritized security, access to justice and peaceful coexistence in these government funded housing schemes. Known as "Neighborhood Justice" the MJL is establishing an interinstitutional committee with the Ministry of Housing to develop this initiative. The AJA has been invited to share the developments in Santa Helena, Chaparral, and will coordinate this exchange with the MJL in the upcoming months.

Strengthen NPIH operations and organization at the national level

On October 1, the Minister of Justice presided over a meeting of the National Committee for JHs for the committee's first meeting in in 10 years. The committee heard requests from the National Police Force, the UARIV, the Colombian Agency for Reintegration and the UACT, which all wish to be part of the National Program for Justice Houses (NPJH). These entities explained the types of activities they would carry out in the JH or in coordination with the JHs. Through this interinstitutional coordination, the NPJH is adapting to face post-conflict challenges. The MJL committed to organizing technical subcommittees that will meet three times a year, and a meeting of the National Committee each semester.

On October 27, the AJA held a workshop in the MJL to discuss two example indicators for the NPJH with Vice Minister Ramos, other MJL staff, the Department of National Planning (DNP), the Post-Conflict Ministry, *Dejusticia*, teachers from the *Externado* and Santo Tomas Universities, and the Corporation for Excellence in Justice (CEJ). After hearing the presentation on the Development and Sustainability Index, the Vice Minister asked the AJA to assist the DADR in the development of a similar index. Subsequently, the AJA met with DADR representatives, including the officer in charge of the JH information system, to learn more about current data collection and measurements within the institution and the development of a more precise instrument. This work will continue in the following quarter.

3.1.2 Promote greater access to justice at the community level by establishing and strengthening ADR mechanisms, outside of the context of JHs

Developing incentive schemes for equity conciliators

No progress was made during this quarter regarding the public policy document for developing incentives for equity conciliators (ECs). Both MJL and National University School for Community Justice (NUSCJ) are dedicated to finalizing the process for EC appointments during the next quarter.

Equity Conciliation in Cases of Violence Against Women

The use of conciliation options in cases of family violence or violence against women is not allowed by law, but community conciliation services find it difficult to ignore families who seek their assistance. The AJA, along with the NUSCJ, has drafted a document presenting key issues for consideration in these situations, and this draft document was the focal point of a discussion group held on November 17 with women from academia and professionals working on such matters with MJL and Bogota authorities. The debate covered a wide range of proposals as to the role that an EC might play in such cases, including preventing further violence, explaining to the parties involved in disputes the cultural norms that have sustained violence against women and the need to change these norms and behavior, and referral to formal justice authorities. A new draft of the document containing some additional aspects raised will be addressed during a second discussion group, possibly during the next quarter following confirmation from the NUSCJ. The AJA's Component Two Coordinator participated in the November meeting and provided some inputs to improve the document.

Equity Conciliation Training in Indigenous Communities

The drafted a document that proposes the form in which non-invasive equity conciliation training might be introduced in indigenous communities. This document will be discussed with indigenous community representatives to have their full input.

Increasing Capacity of ADR Options, Especially in Rural Areas

The AJA resumed municipal activities for strengthening ECs and ADR through local authorities in centers for attending to cases and developing case record filing systems to be utilized by incoming municipal officials. The AJA's SP, CECAR in Montes de María, is ready to undertake these activities in four municipalities, and the NUSCJ will do so in another eight to ten.

Training Equity Conciliators

While formal training sessions concluded in September, during this quarter the AJA began the academic qualifications process and conducting the psychological-technical tests that the MJL requires EC candidates to take. These tests evaluated which candidates do not fit this profile of an EC, either due to mental health, attitudes or interpersonal skills. Once these were completed, the MJL received personnel files on EC candidates still eligible for appointment, and examined the documentation to ensure that the candidates were over 18 years of age, had no criminal convictions, etc. When the MJL was satisfied that the candidates could be appointed, the assigned judge proceeded to appoint them.

The NUSCJ and the AJA held graduation and appointment ceremonies in eight municipalities: Puerto Libertador on November 19; Montelíbano on November 20; Miranda on November 25; Pradera on November 27; Caucasia on December 4; Florida on December 11; San José de Uré on December 15;

and Caloto on December 16. Out of 297 candidates enrolled in the training, 207 graduated from the course and 156 of those graduated were selected and appointed by the MJL following its own review process. **Annex K** contains a table showing the number of ECs who graduated and who were appointed.

Ibagué University, which is executing the Methodology to Implement Community Conciliation (MICE) process in Chaparral, has almost finished identifying EC candidates by the end of the quarter and the formal presentation of candidates will be made in January 2016.

The NUSCJ has reached a basic understanding with the Nasa Indigenous Community to provide equity conciliation training for selected members of this community. This will be undertaken as a pilot experience to strengthen the Nasa indigenous justice system.

<u>Community dialogues to support post-conflict initiatives promote ADR and identify</u> <u>community justice efforts</u>

The AJA has continued conversations with the OACP to jointly undertake community dialogues in rural population centers, in order to examine the challenges of a post-conflict period, especially the need to have a variety of conflict resolution options available to help communities establish bases for peaceful community coexistence, the reintegration of ex-combatants, reconciliation and peacebuilding.

The AJA has drafted terms of reference for contracting support for carrying out these dialogues in 13 municipalities in 26 rural settlements, during an eight to 10 month period. These still require OACP input, which will be provided by January 2016.

Terms of reference have also been defined for ADR services and a mapping exercise and the AJA expects to receive proposals from interested rural research organizations in January/February 2016. This material will complement the information collected during the community dialogues. Both initiatives will provide significant contributions to the MJL's and DNP's Ten Year Justice Plan, to be drafted in 2016 for implementation during 2017-2027.

3.2 COMPONENT TWO – SUPPORT THE PROSECUTION OF GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE CRIMES

3.2.1 Assist the Superior Justice Council (CSJ) in promoting gender equity within the judiciary and with users

Provide assistance to the NGC and selected Sectional Gender Committees

This quarter, the AJA supported the National Gender Commission (NGC) of the Judicial Branch in holding two events. The first was the last Regional Roundtable of 2015, in Macarena, Meta, with the participation of 52 people, including prosecutors, judges, judicial police officials, local administration representatives, ECs, indigenous authorities and members of local women's and social organizations. Three high court magistrates made presentations on jurisprudential guidelines with a gender focus (a case involving the Armed Forces in Arauca, the exclusion of Justice and Peace benefits for failing to declare participation in crimes of sexual violence, Order 009 regarding the obligations of the State in the investigation of cases of sexual violence in the armed conflict, the difference between femicide and other cases involving female victims, and dissenting votes based on the restrictive interpretation of GBV in cases of domestic violence. Following these presentations, the participants discussed relevant cases in a workshop.

Second, AJA supported the Twelfth National Gender Roundtable of the Judicial Branch, from November 4 to 7 in Envigado, Antioquia, which this year coincided with the Second Hemispheric Seminar on Best Practices of Gender Justice, with an average daily attendance of 176 participants, including judges, prosecutors, administrative officials from control agencies, and representatives of social and victims' organizations. The AJA covered the attendance of seven women, six of who were from women's organizations and one from a social organization, representing the six regions of the AJA's intervention. Most of the attendees were leaders and members of organizations who had expressed interest in strengthening their ability to provide judicial representation with a comprehensive psychosocial focus in GBV cases, an action of interest for the AJA. These women had an opportunity to participate in a discussion focused on specialized matters relevant to the rights of women, something that is lacking in the territories. The AJA also supported the participation of three representatives of national women's organizations (*Sisma Mujer, Iniciativa de Mujeres Colombianas por la Paz* and *Humanizar*) that belong to the Gender Alliance, one of the AJA's strategic partners.

One of these representatives made a presentation on "Justice and Gender Equality for Women." In addition, the AJA supported the participation of Otilia Lux de Cotí, an international expert and executive director of the International Indigenous Women's Forum, who gave a presentation titled "Diversity: An Step Towards Peace."

3.2.2 Support the implementation of an inter-institutional strategy to reduce impunity in GBV cases and increase civil society advocacy

During this period, the AJA consulted with the Attorney General's Office (AGO) to reformulate Phases 2 and 3 of the Peer-to-Peer Training. It also supported a course on strengthening the capacities of prosecutors who will be responsible for investigating sexual violence (SV) cases, and it supported

the MJL in the hiring of a consultant who will prepare analyses related to Constitutional Court Order 009 of 2015 in relation to SV.

AJA and AGO at the national level

With support from the AJA, the AGO offered the "First National Training Course on how to conduct a criminal investigation of gender-based violence with an emphasis on sexual violence, through psycho-investigative pairs," from November 23 to 28. This course was carried out in recognition of the International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women on November 25. It was attended by 25 people, including prosecutors, members of the Judicial Police, psychologists and social workers, which were chosen by the National Directorate of Sectional Prosecutor Offices to begin investigating 179 of the 480 cases included in the Reserved Annex of Constitution Court Order 009 on sexual violence in the armed conflict. These 179 cases selected had not previously received any attention from AGO due to the lack of "criminal notice" and assignment of the cases.

During the quarter AJA initiated discussions with CIJ representatives focused on the CIJ's plan to support the AGO's GVB protocol. These discussions stalled and no action was taken as internal problems affecting the CIJ led to its closure in December 2015. The AJA did not directly discuss this issue with the AGO during this quarter.

The AJA also provided support to the Ministry of Justice, through the Directorate of Transitional Justice, to strengthen the coordinated institutional response for the effective investigation of SV crimes. It did so by hiring a consultant who, pursuant to Constitutional Court Order 009, will develop analyses and recommendations regarding (i) the promotion of inter-institutional coordination within the administration of justice; (ii) the strengthening of the AGO; and (iii) the definition of criteria related to the rights of women in the framework of Transitional Justice. The AJA designed terms of reference that are consistent with its objectives for carrying out this strategic action, and it participated in meetings with the MJL to provide technical guidance to this consultant (Activity 2.2.A.1.1).

Local AJA support for the AGO

Following the AGO's comments on the first methodological approach prepared by the AJA during the first quarters of 2015, the AJA proposed a new methodological design for Phases 2 and 3 of the Peer-to-Peer Training Strategy developed by the CIJ for the investigation of GBV cases, given that institution's greater potential for promoting the sustainability of this action. The AJA arranged for the CIJ team that has expertise in project methodology and development to meet with the AGO, through one of the prosecutors from the Directorate of Sectional Prosecutors specializing in investigations with a gender focus. The purpose of these meetings was twofold: (i) to ensure that the proposal constitutes a relevant response to the needs identified by the AGO for its strengthening; and (ii) to have the AGO assume an institutional commitment, given that the action will entail the time and travel of qualified AGO personnel as mentors.

The AJA held preliminary meetings independently with the CIJ and the AGO. It then held a joint meeting on December 7, at which the proposal was presented to the Director of Sectional Prosecutors, who stated his interest in the strategy. As of the date of this report, an additional meeting needs to be scheduled to define the next steps with the AGO. Due to the termination of CIJ's activities, AJA proposed to the AGO to continue with the peer-to-peer strategy by contracting a group of advisors that would carry out the activity and will be embedded in the AGO. The AGO counterpart for this activity voiced agreement with the proposal with enthusiasm, but still needs to consult other AGO offices. By the end of this reporting period, AJA had not received the final response from the AGO on how to implement the peer-to-peer strategy and most important when the process can start considering time constraints on AJA's execution.

The AJA also supported two interdisciplinary workshops as part of Phase 1 of the Peer-to-Peer Training, in the municipalities of Caucasia (in the Bajo Cauca region) and Carmen de Bolívar (in the Montes de María region). A total of 61 participants attended the two workshops. These were among the 14 workshops planned for this stage. At the beginning of this quarter, in meetings to evaluate the workshops in the municipalities of Chaparral and Montelibano, officials from the Family Commissioners' Offices expressed their interest in participating in the third day of the workshop, which followed the first two days devoted to the theoretical-practical background with a discussion of the strategies for developing an SV case. The AJA met with an MJL official to explore the possibility of developing a one-day training session for the Family Commissioners on protection and judicial police functions, taking their specific interests into account. After discussing the matter with the coordinators of Components 1 and 3, it was decided to continue with the three-session workshop, which was offered on two occasions during this quarter. Please see **Annex O** for the report on these workshops.

<u>Creation and strengthening of women defenders and civil society organizations that work</u> on GBV issues

During this quarter, the AJA's Evaluation Committee conducted a technical review of the 10 proposals that it received. To date, the Committee has approved six proposals, one per region, with requests for modifications. Five of these proposals were submitted by local women's organizations, and one by a faith-based social organization which has proposed the involvement of the women's networks in the region.

As of the date of this report, two of the proposals have been signed: the proposal from the Sur de Córdoba region, with the Diocese of Montelíbano, and the one from the Montes de María region, with the Helenita González Lawyers' Collective. In December, these organizations and the AJA assessed risks and organizational strength, using an institutional capacity diagnostic instrument known as the Organizational Capacity Assessment Tool (OCAT) (see **Annex L**). Of the remaining proposals,

three, corresponding to Tumaco, Macarena and Bajo Cauca, are pending receipt of modifications, and the other, corresponding to Sur de Tolima, is in the internal approval process.

Based on the results of the APS workshops held last quarter, and in order to carry out the activities approved in the action plan, the AJA defined a strategy for supporting this action through the awarding of two subcontracts to non-governmental organizations for the provision of legal and psychosocial assistance to victims in the territories. After defining the terms of reference for the required technical profile and issuing the invitation, the AJA received two proposals for legal assistance and two for psychosocial assistance, which are currently being evaluated by the Evaluation Committee.

During this period, and as approved in the work plan, the AJA issued terms of reference for the awarding of three grants to non-governmental organizations with proven experience in the representing SV victims in strategic litigation with a gender focus. The AJA has received three proposals, an unsolicited one from the Montes de María region, and two in the framework of the APS, which are currently being evaluated by the Committee.

The AJA has also designed terms of reference and published an invitation to promote access to justice in GBV/SV cases involving discrimination against LGBTI people. It explored the possibility of having a non-governmental organization that defends the rights of LGBTI people provide criminal judicial representation and psychosocial assistance in GBV/SV cases involving discrimination in the AJA's municipalities of intervention. As of the closing of this report, the AJA has received three proposals (Corporación Shadday Ejad, Red de Mujeres de Ibagué and Corporación Caribe Afirmativo) for this work.

3.2.3 Promote educational activities with the public, enhancing knowledge about the legal framework related to gender matters, including rights under this legal framework

Disseminating information on gender and GBV issues

The AJA's regional offices, in coordination with the Component Three Coordinator, promoted the dissemination of information about the right of women to live free of violence, in the framework of the International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women on November 25, and the 16 days of advocacy for the elimination of violence against women through December 10, International Human Rights Day.

The regional office in Bajo Cauca conducted workshops on November 26 and 27 with indigenous women in Caucasia and Cáceres on empowering advocacy as a strategy for promoting actions against GBV. On December 4, it offered a seminar in Zaragoza on "The Role of Afro-Colombian Women in Justice and Post-conflict Scenarios," with the participation of 50 people, including officials and leaders of women's and Afro-Colombian women's organizations. And on November 25, it supported

the fourth Race for Peace, in which 1,500 people participated, which is coordinated with and supported by different actors in the region under the slogan "You and I Reject Violence against Women." On November 25 and 26, the regional office in Montes de María disseminated information about women's right to live free of violence, and carried out a symbolic act in the town of San Isidro Labrador in the municipality of Carmen de Bolívar, with the participation of around 200 people.

The regional office in Sur de Tolima, with the participation of the Women's Network of Chaparral, and in coordination with other social actors and USAID implementers, carried out campaigns for the dissemination of information about women's rights, which included a workshop attended by 30 women victims of GBV. It also carried out a demonstration and a symbolic act aimed at involving the general community in reflecting on the issues promoted by the commemoration of this day, which was attended by 150 people.

3.3 COMPONENT THREE – STRENGTHENING LOCAL JUSTICE SERVICES AND LAND RESTITUTION JUDICIAL PROCESS

3.3.1 Support for the functioning of land restitution courts

Building an elite class of land restitution judges and magistrates

The AJA continued to implement the policy agreed on with the land restitution judges of providing incentives and managing change in the culture of the land restitution jurisdiction. It also supported



an observational study tour to the United States by five representatives of the judicial offices that won the competition for the recognition of best practices in administrative management and inter-institutional coordination in the judicial phase of the land restitution process. The winners selected from proposals for the implementation of best practices in the postjudgment monitoring stage, which

were evaluated by the CSJ, CEJ and AJA. Four judges and a senior official from the jurisdiction (the First, Second and Itinerant Land Restitution courts in Medellín and Buga) traveled to exchange experiences, knowledge and judicial practices with judges, employees and academics in the United

States. During the third week of November 2015, the judicial officials visited the United States District Court for the Western District of Washington, the Supreme Court of the State of Washington in Olympia, Kings County Court and Seattle University, where they discussed the management of cases and hearings, management models, technology, zero paper and information systems, resistance to change, judicial independence, a differential ethnic approach, and property rights.

The Colombian and foreign judges described their exchange of judicial practices as successful, and assessed the AJA's work as highly positive for strengthening initiatives that are being implemented in the land restitution jurisdiction in order to overcome identified barriers (i.e. resistance to change and to the use of technology, excessive formalism, and the lack of efficient management and administration of proceedings and hearings).

The AJA will identify the lessons learned from the observation trip, monitor the replication of the experiences and knowledge acquired, and continue promoting a judicial culture in the land restitution jurisdiction based on motivation (incentives), trust, the use of technology, teamwork, and interinstitutional coordination. The recommendations and lessons learned are to: a) raise the awareness of their colleagues, promote the application of mechanisms for the operation of new information systems, and progressively overcome resistance to change; b) re-establish respect for the position and function of judges, ensuring humane treatment with the parties involved and avoid excessive formalism in the proceedings; c) promote efficient case management and swifter administration of proceedings and hearings in the judicial and post-judgment phases, through more expeditious mechanisms, such as oral hearings, and the selection of a director of the Judicial Services Division, who will be responsible for complying with the objectives of the management model, supporting the project, entering into agreements, identifying positive and receptive attitudes among his/her peers, and finding ways to resolve problems; d) strengthen decision-making derived from a discussion process within the jurisdiction; e) promote the quality of decisions based on a focus on rights, taking into account the local context and characteristics; f) re-establish the importance of applying judicial precedent in the adjudication of land restitution cases; g) reassess the perception of some judges who view the independence of the judiciary as a limit on coordination within the jurisdiction and between institutions; and h) exchange experiences and analyses of comparative law. These recommendations, linked to the effort to overcome the above-mentioned barriers, will be shared and replicated in the inperson and virtual sessions of the jurisdiction's National Thematic Committees.

The Land Restitution Chamber of the Tribunal of Cartagena and the courts in Carmen de Bolívar (in which the pilot program for the implementation of the management model for judicial offices is being carried out) were audited externally and received a quality certification by ICONTEC, which recognized improvements in the provision of justice services based on the integrated quality management system implemented with support from the AJA.

The AJA, in coordination with the CSJ, continued the gradual implementation of the strategy for replicating the management model for judicial offices in the jurisdiction. This quarter, 39 justice operators and officials from the offices in Villavicencio, Quibdó and Montería discussed, validated and adopted strategic, continuous improvement processes, protocols for the security of personnel

and venues, guidelines on minimum requirements for individual and collective restitution petitions; guidelines for the inclusion of a differential and rights approach in judicial decisions; the zero-paper policy; and warning systems for the control of activities, proceedings, time periods and decisions. The replicated model will improve the efficiency and quality of justice services for victims of violent dispossession or abandonment of lands as a result of the armed conflict.

Through regional meetings and forums organized by strategic partners, the AJA continued to monitor recommendations for overcoming critical problems, with an emphasis on the post-judgment stage and inter-institutional coordination. With support from Santo Tomás University in Villavicencio and the University of Ibagué, the AJA held forums in October and December on barriers to the execution of land restitution judgments and how the institutions can overcome them. The forums were attended by 66 people, including magistrates, judges, lawyers, and representatives of entities linked to the land restitution (LR) process, such as the Land Restitution Unit (URT), Colombian Institute for Rural Development, Geographic Institute Agustín Codazzi, and the UARIV.

The AJA provided opportunities for discussions with the Delegate Inspector General for Land (*Procuraduría Delegada para Asuntos de Restitución de Tierras*), *Corporación Derecho Justo* and the judiciary, in which they identified the need for a court reporter's office for the jurisdiction, which would improve and facilitate jurisprudential inquiries and the application of precedents. This recommendation arose from the monitoring conducted by the Land Restitution Process Observatory of the Inspector General's Office, and it has been discussed in the Thematic Committees on Technology and Training.

Supporting land restitution courts' IT needs

The AJA identified the land restitution offices' technological, administrative and personnel management requirements and needs, and shared this diagnosis with the CSJ. Based on the AJA's recommendations, the CSJ modified its contract with the company that provides connectivity services, and expanded internet coverage and capacity for all offices in the jurisdiction. Also at the suggestion of the AJA, the CSJ created two new land restitution courts for Nariño (based in Pasto) in order to relieve case overloads and congestion. A total of four courts in Pasto currently handle around 1,200 cases. In response to the measures adopted by the CSJ, the AJA will support the provision of the following technological tools: a) scanners for digitizing orders and updating information systems; b) cameras for judicial inspections; c) digital storage devices for files, documentation and hearings; and d) devices that will improve the performance of judicial employees' functions and strengthen the land jurisdiction offices and courts at a national level.

The AJA continued to support the National Thematic Committee on Technology in the design and implementation of the pilot project on "Zero Paper, Law 14148/2011, Progress Towards Online Litigation." One hundred forty-nine LR jurisdiction operators in Medellín, Cúcuta, Cali, Buga, Bogotá, Yopal, Pasto, Santa Marta, Valledupar, Apartadó, Villavicencio, Quibdó and Montería

participated in workshops on the zero paper component for the implementation of this model. The attendees recognized the utility and impact of the implementation of the zero paper policy in reducing processing times, improving attention to claimant victims, enhancing coordination among institutions, and protecting data and the flow of information during the judicial phase of the LR process. The Committee has supported the CSJ in consolidating the guide on electronic processing of land restitution cases, and the AJA, in coordination with CSJ engineers, will implement a strategy for strengthening the zero paper program in LR offices.

Training land restitution judges

The AJA supported the session of the Committee on Security attended by land restitution magistrates, judges and officials. The Committee discussed the regional intervention strategy that will be implemented in order to strengthen the security of officials and land restitution offices, through on-site training with the assistance of an expert consultant hired by the AJA. The intervention will be initiated during the first quarter of 2016 in the judicial offices in Cali, Popayán, Mocoa, Santa Marta, Valledupar; Apartadó, Barrancabermeja, Villavicencio and Quibdó, which were prioritized due to their risk levels.

The Committee on Training completed the model for the induction of new land restitution judges and officials, whose virtualization will be supported by the AJA in order to ensure flexible, low-cost training. The AJA supported the drafting and printing of this Committee's sixth bulletin, which was a special edition that gave recognition to the magistrate who is leading the process in the CSJ. The bulletin is the main means for promoting and disseminating information about the jurisdiction and the activities and initiatives of the Committee of Judges (it is available on the Judicial Branch's website: https://www.ramajudicial.gov.co/web/informacion-general/boletines).

The AJA agreed with the CSJ to include in the virtual module the guidelines and protocols developed by the Thematic Committees, as well as a booklet on these guidelines, in coordination with the Judicial School. This initiative is part of the AJA's strategy to ensure the dissemination and implementation of the guidelines developed by the jurisdiction. The booklet will be ready by April 2016.

The AJA supported the jurisdiction's Fourteenth National Conference, held in Cúcuta in November 2015. The agenda included a discussion of the final adjustments to the guides, protocols and manuals, and a forum on civil society and the land restitution jurisdiction. The conference was attended by members of the judiciary, MAPP-OEA, *Dejusticia*, COSUDE (a Swiss agency), ARD/USAID and the Director of the URT. In order to overcome some critical problems or bottlenecks caused by a lack of inter-institutional coordination, the conference approved a technical dialogue proposal made by the SNARIV group of the Land Restitution Unit, which adopted the recommendations of the Inter-institutional Thematic Committee of Judges. The recommendations are to: a) generate opportunities for interinstitutional dialogue (involving entities and judges) with the purpose of proposing solutions (the dialogues should be structured on the basis of issues, by regional sectors, and specific cases should

be dealt with through didactic workshops); b) identify problems from each district, giving every court and tribunal the opportunity to present difficulties, in order to code and record them prior to the dialogues; and c) involve the Colombian Commission of Jurists in the dialogue process.

This was a great achievement that will facilitate dialogue and harmonious collaboration among the jurisdiction's administrative and judicial entities. The AJA argued for the need to implement a strategy for improving inter-institutional coordination at a regional level, an initiative that was adopted by the URT (a group within the SNARIV), which agreed to carry out four pilot projects in Ibagué, Pasto, Cúcuta and Montería, for the implementation of routes of compliance with judgments and post-judgment monitoring.

Addressing corruption risks within land restitution courts

The AJA shared the corruption risk map with land restitution judges and officials, and will incorporate it in the jurisdiction's judicial office management model. This will prevent corruption, through early warnings, and will establish effective measures to ensure greater transparency in the processing of cases. The jurisdiction's National Committees will share with the URT the recommendations of FIP for mitigating risks in the administrative phase.

The findings and recommendations of the diagnosis were incorporated in a chapter of the FIP's publication on barriers of access to justice, and they will be socialized in forums on local justice and the post-conflict period.

Addressing security risks within land restitution courts

The AJA supported the Thematic Committee on Technology and the Informatics Unit of the Judicial Branch in the implementation of the zero paper policy and information security plan in six judicial offices in Villavicencio, Quibdó, Caucasia and Montería. The plan includes the incorporation of the following in the judicial management model: i) a risk matrix; ii) an assessment of assets; iii) the assignment of responsibilities; iv) an information policy and management manual; v) a security protocol; vi) records of presumption and agreements on confidentiality and co-responsibility; and vii) reports on recommendations and best practices.

Support to National LR Thematic Committees

The AJA continued to provide technical and financial support for the different initiatives of the National Land Restitution Thematic Committees (Technology, Training, Processes and Procedures, and Inter-institutional Coordination). The Committees' main achievements during this quarter were as follows: 70% of judicial offices with technical capacity and adequate preparation for the "zero paper" process; standardization through a guide on electronic processes; a guide on the minimum

required contents of petitions, recently shared by the URT's Legal Office with the Unit's territorial offices; progress in the development of a guide on the inclusion of a contextual analysis in land restitution decisions; and agreements with the URT for the implementation of routes for monitoring compliance with decisions in four regions.

In order to facilitate the transfer and sustainability of the Project's activities in the land restitution jurisdiction, the AJA supported the operation of the Technical Secretariat of the Thematic LR Committees (documenting activities, meeting minutes, an operating manual, new initiatives, guides and protocols). In agreement with the Coordinators of the Thematic LR Committees, the AJA will support initiatives for presenting to the Judicial Branch's new administrative and governing bodies information on the committee-based governance model, operations, reports and main achievements.

With the restructuring of the Judicial Branch, and in support of the CSJ, consultants hired by the AJA performed an organizational and operational diagnosis based on balance-of-powers legislation (Legislative Act No. 002 of 2015), which included the following components: a) judicial governance and administration, comparative law in Latin America, structure and problems; b) judicial management in Colombia; c) opportunities to discuss proposed Judicial Branch reforms; d) a diagnosis of the institutional capacity of the Superior Judicial Council (proposed development objectives of the CSJ), the deficit of human resources of the Administrative Chamber and Office of the Executive Director, and the budget deficit of the Judicial Branch; e) organizational and functional gaps between the CSJ's institutional expectations and achievements with respect to its purpose, functions and organizational structure; and f) institutionality proposed in the Legislative Act. The diagnosis will be shared and validated by the Administrative Chamber of the Superior Judicial Council, the Administrative Department of the Public Function, the Ministry of Justice and Law, and the new governing and administrative bodies of the Judicial Branch (see **Annex M**).

With support from the legal clinics of its university partners, the Project is promoting rural mobile brigades focused on land-related disputes, together with the Land and Rural Development Program. This effort is designed to screen claims so that only cases involving land restitution, not formalization, reach the judicial phase, thereby preventing judicial congestion. With this objective, the AJA carried out a brigade in Chaparral, Sur de Tolima, with the participation of 244 people, in which different entities provided assistance with property titling, title searches, the formalization of ownership, occupation processes, adverse possession, and succession processes, among other matters. During the campaign, Cooperativa University's legal clinic assisted 117 users, including those involved in a conciliation process that enabled 11 families to move ahead with a process for legalizing and titling land once the parties formalized their common law marriages.

The AJA reached regional agreements in Bajo Cauca (with *Colombia Responde*, the LJCs, the UCT, and the URT for carrying out thematic brigades focused on land in the municipalities of Briceño, Anorí and Valdivia, as well as in the Montes de María region (with the Land and Rural Development Program, CECAR, Rafael Núñez University, the URT and the LJCs).

The AJA will support an assessment designed to identify and project: i) the current caseload (in both phases); ii) procedural times based on different variables (with and without opposition, individuals or collectives); iii) projections of growth in petitions (demand); iv) institutional capacities (personnel, technology) for facing new burdens; v) proposed new requirements-based work methodologies (collective cases); vi) possible legal or regulatory adjustments; and vii) the impact on the current LR model of the possible creation of the Agrarian Jurisdiction. The assessment will identify new AJA actions, and will document for the new judicial administration the decisions and policies that are required in the land restitution jurisdiction. The terms of reference and hiring mechanism for this assessment will be developed and discussed with USAID in the next quarter. Results are expected to be received two months after the consultancy is contracted.

3.3.2 Support for continued implementation of the Criminal Procedure Code (CPC)

Support to the Inter-Institutional Commission for the Criminal Accusatory System (CISPA)

The report on the 10 years of implementation of the SPA was presented during an international forum attended by prosecutors, judges, assistant inspectors general, public defenders and international experts dedicated to the study of criminal procedure models. The participants shared experiences related to the operation of the criminal accusatory system in different Latin American countries, important reforms, the current state of the system, the challenges faced by the model, best practices in the implementation, and inter-institutional proposals for improvement (see **Annex N**).

The CEJ's report served as an input for three regional forums held with support from CECAR (Montes de María), Santo Tomás University (La Macarena) and University of the Sinú (Sur de Córdoba), which were attended by 280 people, including criminal justice system operators, university professionals (such as teachers and staff from academic institutions) and members of the LJCs in the three regions. The reports on the proceedings identified critical problems that have impeded the full implementation of the SPA in these regions. Given the current institutional situation of the AGO and the CIJ, the latter requested the termination of the subcontract signed with the AJA. The bilateral termination and liquidation of this contract will be carried out based on the parties' agreement.

3.3.3 Promote local justice reform, to include court administration reform

Strengthening local justice systems, through the UTC

With support from its national strategic partner FIP, the AJA worked with the editorial committee formed to review and approve the publication of the diagnosis of barriers of access to justice in the Project's regions of influence; a cross-cutting analysis of the barriers, a differential gender approach;

barriers and risks of corruption in the land restitution process; a definition of, and guidelines for, the local justice system; local justice policies; and a report on the Local Justice Committees. This publication will be socialized and discussed in preparatory roundtables (focus groups) and regional forums on justice, the post-conflict era and rurality, which will be held in the Project's regions of influence, based on methodological guidelines developed this quarter.

Addressing the initiatives prioritized in the LJCs' action plans, the AJA, in coordination with the CIJ, the National Institute of Legal Medicine and Forensic Sciences and the AGO, continued with the timetable for Phase 1 of the peer-to-peer training strategy. The AJA held two workshops in Caucasia and Carmen de Bolívar on an interdisciplinary approach to gender-based violence, in order to discuss the following with the agencies and operators involved in addressing this type of violence: routes of attention, protocols, applicable legal provisions (within and outside the armed conflict), forensic medical and psychological assessments, field investigations, and the management of evidence for the prosecution of cases. The two workshops were attended by 61 justice system operators (judges, prosecutors, victims' representatives and family commissioners), assistant personnel (psychologists, doctors and social workers), judicial police, ombudsmen, inspectors, local magistrates, and indigenous authorities who are members of the LJCs of Caucasia, Cáceres, Nechí, Tarazá, Carmen de Bolívar and San Jacinto (see **Annex O**).

The AJA evaluated the workshops based on the following criteria: i) the content (presentation, depth of analysis, current practical application, and fulfillment of expectations regarding the topic) ii) the facilitators (feedback, quality and command of the subject, clarity of the presentations, opening of the debate); and iii) the organization, logistics and materials. The average score was very high, 4.6 out of 5.0. In addition, with the support of the CIJ, the AJA made progress in the systematizing, documenting, and creating a matrix of findings, with which it made a preliminary determination of a) good practices; b) main obstacles; and c) problems related to the functions and skills of the justice operators, based on four variables (comprehensive attention, cultural determinants, process and management). The justice system operators recognize the importance of these kinds of training activities, are considering the participation of the authorities and agencies that are responsible for addressing crimes of sexual violence, and recommend that such activities be offered more frequently.

In addition, the AJA is supporting the LJCs with initiatives for the inclusion of a differential approach, such as: training indigenous communities and authorities in La Macarena, developing and applying protocols of coordination between the ordinary and indigenous justice systems (Southern Tolima, Bajo Cauca, Sur de Córdoba and Montes de María), workshops on investigation/action/participation with Afro-Colombian community councils for the inclusion of a component on their traditional justice systems, with support from RECOMPAS in Tumaco.

The AJA continued to support the LJCs in order to improve the coverage of justice services in the rural sector through: (a) a virtual legal clinic with a gender focus in Tumaco (during the quarter, the virtual legal clinic website registered 275 users and facilitated 744 online counseling sessions; since

launching in 2014 the page has received 2,376 visits and facilitated 1,951 online counseling sessions); (b) the implementation of a virtual tool for providing legal guidance and assistance to rural communities through the virtual legal clinics of the law schools of the following universities: Medellín, *Cooperativa de Colombia*, *del Sinú*, Santo Tomás de Villavicencio, CECAR and Nariño; and (c) improvement in the coverage of justice services, with support from the Ministry of Information and Communication Technologies and the Ministry of Justice, through the operation of digital kiosks (60 digital kiosks coordinated with the Project's regions of implementation), and eleven mobile justice brigades with 904 beneficiaries. As of the close of calendar year 2015, the AJA supported 112 Mobile Justice Brigades² with a total of 9,434 beneficiaries.

In compliance with the strategy for the sustainability of the LJCs and their inclusion in national justice-related public policies, the AJA worked hard with the regional teams and local administrations to achieve the recognition and formalization of 16 LJCs³ (out of a total of 29 supported by the AJA), through mayoral decrees that also included the creation of Technical Secretariats within the municipal Government Secretariats. The AJA simultaneously worked with the UACT and the Ministry of Justice for their inclusion in the Ten-Year Justice Plan that is being designed.

4.0 COMMUNICATIONS

The AJA launched the Virtual Legal Clinic (VLC) of the Montes de María region jointly with the IT Ministry, the Ministry of Justice, UACT and CECAR. The VLCs, which integrate the Ministry of Justice's LegalApp website, are mechanisms for the LJCs to bringing justice services to rural communities. Of the six VLCs planned, one is already in operation. The AJA has lead the design and execution of the VLC sites and has assisted the SP in the design of the outreach communication strategies aimed at informing communities about how to use the VLCs in their regions.

The AJA, together with the UN and the Governor's Office of Meta, held a regional forum on "Challenges of justice in rural areas in post-conflict scenarios," which brought together municipal mayors in the department. Its panel and roundtable format with experts enabled elected officials to debate and pledge support for developing justice activities. The event was attended by Alan Jara, the Governor of Meta, Fabrizio Hochschild, UN Colombia representative, and 180 participants including mayors-elect, UACT and Victim's Unit representatives, judges and other justice operators, indigenous authorities, JAC members, and ECs. The AJA supported the development of the USAID' International Forum on the "Report on the 10 years of the Criminal Accusatory System in Colombia," (including a book, a 20-minute video, posters, and a micro web site), at which national and international experts analyzed the System's contributions and main challenges. This forum was

² The 112 mobile justice brigades are comprised of 61 brigades by law school clinics and 51 LCJ brigades.

³ Anorí, Briceño, Cáceres, El Bagre, Nechí, Tarazá and Valdivia in Bajo Cauca; Ataco, Chaparral and Rioblanco in Sur del Tolima; San Onofre and El Carmen de Bolívar in Montes de María; Montelíbano, Puerto Libertador and San José de Uré in Sur de Córdoba and Tumaco.

attended by USAID, the Attorney General, the Ministry of Justice and Law, and the CEJ. The activity received coverage by the main media outlets in Colombia, including *El Tiempo*, *El Espectador, Semana*, and *El Nuevo Siglo*.

The AJA supported the development of six workshops on marriage equality developed by *Colombia Diversa* and the SJC, with support from the AJA and the European Union. These workshops achieved the objective of informing judges about jurisprudential tools for the protection of the rights of same-sex couples. Judges, magistrates, litigators and judicial officials learned about and debated decisions related to this issue. The AJA supported the development of other events, such as the visit by the US Ambassador to Colombia to El Carmen de Bolivar, workshops on SV and GBV developed by the AGO and its university, meetings with mayoral candidates, and regional forums.

In order to strengthen the external communications skills of the AJA's partners in the Tumaco region, the Communications Office provided training to them in a workshop on how to design their marketing strategies and institutional portfolios. As a result, RECOMPAS, Pastoral Social, and the Tumaco's Justice House committed to start the design of these strategies, a process that the AJA will assist them with.

The AJA led the design of Fact Sheets on its Local Justice Committees, Rural Strategy, Land Restitution process, and Gender-Based Violence routes, which have improved communication with stakeholders and communities about the barriers to justice that the Project seeks to mitigate and the results that it has obtained (see **Annex P**).

The AJA started planning two workshops for community journalists, to be given in the Bajo Cauca and La Macarena regions in February 2016. More than 100 journalists have learned to better report on SV and GBV crimes through the five workshops that have already been implemented in AJA regions. The Training Office led a network of community journalists in the Montes de María region in producing a radio program about the rights of women, in broadcast since March 2015.

As a result of this experience with journalists, the AJA was invited to participate in the three-day "Fourth International Conference on Communication for Peace" organized by Santo Tomás University in Bogotá. The conference was opened by international peace and ADR expert John Galtung. He shared his experiences with 200 students during a panel session with representatives of *Contravía* and *Fecolper* (an organization of 29 journalist associations and more than 1,200 journalists).

In internal communications: 1) the Communications Office continued to assist staff, consultants and partners in complying with Branding and Marking regulations; 2) USAID continued publishing notes on its Facebook page about the AJA's activities in this quarter; 3) Hard-copy and electronic versions of the July/August issue of *Justicia al Día* [Justice Update] bulletin was distributed to national and regional stakeholders, as was the seventh issue of the regional version of the bulletin for the Bajo Cauca region; and 4) The website continues to be updated in Spanish and English with information

about AJA activities (news, publications, success stories, Fact Sheets). The website will be renovated, for which a process for selecting providers was developed. The renovation process will be carried out in the second quarter of 2016. 5) The Communications Office has continued to send out a daily press report on the Project's activities and relevant news published in national media outlets, and has supported the writing and editing of weekly bulletins when appropriate.

5.0 PROGRESS ON INDICATORS IN THE M&E PLAN

INTERMEDIATE RESULT	SUBINTERMEDIATE RESULT	INDICATOR (Definition, Unit and Frequency)	TARGET FY2016	ACHIEVEMENT FY2016	COMMENTS
1.1. Promote greater access to justice at the community level by establishing and strengthening justice houses.	1.1.2. Increased coverage of JHs outside of the main population centers in targeted municipalities, with a particular focus on consolidation regions.	1.1.2.1. Number of persons attended in mobile justice brigades outside of urban areas. Unit: Number of persons Frequency: Quarterly	13,080	724	
1.2. Promote greater access to justice at the community level by establishing and strengthening ADR mechanisms, outside of the	1.2.3. Strengthened and expanded National Program in Equity Conciliation.	1.2.3.1. Number of alternative justice service providers trained. Unit: Number of alternative justice service providers. Frequency: Quarterly	320	0	
context of justice houses.		1.2.3.2. Number of records of equity conciliation filed in a municipal office. Unit: Number of records of equity conciliation Frequency: Annual	2,611	N/A	This indicator is measured on an annual basis.
2.1 Assist SJC in promoting gender equity within the judiciary and with users.	2.1.1. Increased alignment of lower court decisions in targeted zones with high court jurisprudence on gender issues.	D03-006. Number of judges and judicial personnel trained with US government assistance. Unit: Number of judicial personnel trained Frequency: Quarterly	70	26	Workshop on teamwork between psychologists and justice sector actors during investigations of GBV and SV crimes, with participation from investigators, prosecutors, psychologists and social workers.
2.2 Support the Implementation of an Inter-Institutional Strategy to Reduce	2.2.1. Improved understanding by police, prosecutors, and those who provide services to victims of crime regarding how to	2.2.1.1. Number of individuals trained in investigation of cases of Gender-Based Violence (GBV) /Sexual Violence (SV). Unit: Number of people trained Frequency: Quarterly	300	61	Workshops on "Interdisciplinary approach to GBV and Sexual Violence" held in Caucasia and El Carmen de Bolívar.

INTERMEDIATE RESULT	SUBINTERMEDIATE RESULT	INDICATOR (Definition, Unit and Frequency)	TARGET FY2016	ACHIEVEMENT FY2016	COMMENTS
Impunity in GBV Cases and Increase Civil Society Advocacy	treat women involved in the criminal justice process.	2.2.1.2. Changes in knowledge of key legislative frameworks and criminal investigation protocols related to GBV and Sexual Violence. Unit: Percentage Frequency: Semiannually	TBD	N/A	
2.2 Support the Implementation of an Inter-Institutional Strategy to Reduce Impunity in GBV Cases and Increase Civil Society Advocacy	2.2.2. New Victims' Attention Centers (CAVs) constructed or otherwise established.	2.2.2.1. Number of new CAVs. Unit: Number of CAVs. Frequency: Quarterly	1	0	
2.2 Support the Implementation of an Inter-Institutional Strategy to Reduce Impunity in GBV Cases and Increase Civil Society Advocacy	2.2.3. Greater confidence by citizens in the capacity of the criminal justice sector to fairly resolve criminal complaints involving gender issues.	2.2.3.1. Percent of project-supported victims who trust that the judicial process can successfully represent their interests. Unit: Percentage Frequency: Annual	TBD	N/A	
2.2 Support the Implementation of an Inter-Institutional Strategy to Reduce Impunity in GBV Cases and Increase Civil Society Advocacy	2.2.4. Increase understanding by participating AGO prosecutors and investigators of case management and investigation as well as	2.2.4.1. Number of cases GBV/SV supported through AJA's peer training program. Unit: Number of cases Frequency: Quarterly	42	0	
·	prosecution of GBV/SV cases.	2.2.4.2. Number of Cases GBV/ SV receiving investigative support that have progressed at least one sub-stage in the judicial process. Unit: Number of cases Frequency: Annual	21	0	
		2.2.4.3. Degree of change in knowledge, attitudes and practices among local justice operators (prosecutors and investigators).	TBD	N/A	

INTERMEDIATE RESULT	SUBINTERMEDIATE RESULT	INDICATOR (Definition, Unit and Frequency)	TARGET FY2016	ACHIEVEMENT FY2016	COMMENTS
		Unit: Points (units) Frequency: Annual			
2.3 Increase the capacity of women's organizations and local and national nongovernmental organizations (NGOs) to	2.3.1. Strengthen CSO/NGOs´ capacity to provide legal and psychological support to GBS/VS victims.	2.3.1.1. Number of CSO/NGOs receiving grants from the project. Unit: Number or CSO/NGOs Frequency: Quarterly	6	2	-Diocese of Montelíbano (Sur de Córdoba) -Colectivo de Abogadas Helenita González Pérez (Montes de María)
provide legal and psychological support to victims of GBV/SV.		2.3.1.2. Number of people reached by a USG funded intervention providing GBV services. Unit: Number of victims Frequency: Quarterly	120	0	
		2.3.1.3. Number of cases GBV / SV receiving legal representation support through CSO/NGOs that have progressed at least one sub-stage in the judicial process. Unit: Number of cases Frequency: Annually	60	0	
3.1 Strengthened Land Restitution Courts and Land Restitution Tribunals.	3.1.1. Land restitution courts functioning, in terms of production and quality, better than traditional Colombian courts.	D03-006. Number of judges and judicial personnel trained with US government assistance. Unit: Number of judges and judicial personnel. Frequency: Quarterly	150	5	During the third week of November 2015, the judicial personnel visited the United States District Court for the Western District of Washington, the Supreme Court of the State of Washington in Olympia, Kings County Court and Seattle University, where they discussed the management of cases and hearings, management models, technology, zero paper and information systems, resistance to change, judicial independence, a differential

INTERMEDIATE RESULT	SUBINTERMEDIATE RESULT	INDICATOR (Definition, Unit and Frequency)	TARGET FY2016	ACHIEVEMENT FY2016	COMMENTS
					ethnic approach, and property rights.
3.3 Promote local justice reform, to include court administration reform.	3.3.1. LJCs are institutionalized within their respective municipalities.	3.3.1.1. Degree of change in Local Justice Coordinating Committee (LJC) Members' perceptions about Local Justice System. Unit: Points (units) Frequency: Annual	4.5	N/A	
	3.3.2. LJCs and other access-to-justice initiatives are included in the development plans and budgets at the departmental and / or municipal levels.	D03-008. Number of municipalities in AJA-targeted CSDI zones that have allocated and invested monetary and other support for access to justice projects in annual municipal budgets. Unit: Number of municipalities. Frequency: Annual ⁴	7	N/A	
	3.3.3. LJCs implement a broad rurality inclusion strategy with the participation of local actors, both governmental and non-governmental.	3.3.3.1. Number of requests of legal services through brigades by law school clinics in or near CZs. Unit: Number of requests. Frequency: Quarterly	2,300	924	-180 requests attended744 gender related counseling sessions provided through the Tumaco Virtual Legal Clinic.

⁴ For this indicator the frequency for collecting the data and reporting corresponds to the calendar year.

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